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to withdraw?

[15 June 1956]

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Dear Bill:

Sherman Kent has shown me your letter in which you suggest withdrawing as a consultant to the Agency. Of course I realize the great demands on your time and energy involved in your various activities. If the additional burden of advising us is one that you feel you must lay aside, I cannot protest, though even so I hope you would do it only for the next academic year.

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But unless there are really compelling reasons to take a sabbatical, I would like to persuade you to stay with us. The [redacted] is a part of our organization on which I rely highly for all sorts of purposes. First and foremost, our National Estimates profit enormously from the opportunity that Sherman's people have to sit down several times a year and review our current estimative problems with a wise and experienced group like yours. The knowledge that this process of discussion is part of our standard procedure gives me great comfort and confidence. In a more general way, I also value this opportunity of keeping leaders in the academic world aware of our estimative work. You continually suggest new and rewarding lines of inquiry, you have sent us (and I hope will continue to do so) valuable recruits from among your students, and the consultants panel itself has proved a most useful proving ground for prospective members of the Board of National Estimates.

All this applies to the function of the consultants' panel itself, and all is well known to you. What you may not fully take into account is the strength that you personally bring to the group, and.

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the vast enhancement of confidence and prestige that your presence gives us. I very much hope that you will consent to remain a member of the group, it being understood that you are likely not to be able to attend all the meetings.

Whatever your decision, as to the coming year, thank you for your wise and resourceful counsel as the first chairman of the Estimates Board, and since then as the chief of the Board's consultants. Congratulations also on your latest honor, the Yale degree.

With every good wish.

Sincerely yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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O/NE: [redacted] (drafted 15 June 1956)

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